

Meeting Minutes
Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board
Hybrid Virtual (Microsoft Teams) & In-Person Meeting (RCSOB Room 105)
March 31, 2026

Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board (CSSAB) Members Present

Charles Campbell, Chairperson*
Joel Bolstein
James Connor
Colleen Costello
Donald Wagner
Thomas Gluodenis
Neil Ketchum (Alternate)

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Staff Present

Kris Shiffer*
Michael Maddigan*
John Gross*
Brie Sterling*
Deborah Miller*
Yumi Creason*
Dana Marshall*
Shay Decker
Lindsay Williamson*
Josh Neyhart*
Andrew Furman*
Sean Gimbel*
Megan Specht*
Laura Griffin
David Lapadat

Members of the Public Present

Terry O'Reilly
Krish Patel
Aaron Yingling
Dave Farrington
Gavin Coyne
Jeffrey Ivicic
Judd Herr
Trent Machamer
Meghan Ryan
Neil Ketchum

* Attended meeting in person. If no asterisk, then attendance was virtual.

Open Meeting

CSSAB chairman, Mr. Charles Campbell, opened meeting at 0930.

Approval of Minutes

No comments were raised on the minutes from the July 16, 2025, meeting. Mr. Donald Wagner motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Joel Bolstein. The minutes were approved.

No comments were raised on the minutes from the October 22, 2025, meeting. Mr. Wagner motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Bolstein. The minutes were approved.

Administrative Issues

Edits were proposed to the bylaws to allow alternates to vote and to allow alternates to receive compensation for expenses. No comments were raised on the bylaw edits. Mr. Bolstein motioned to adopt the changes, seconded by Mr. Wagner. The motion passed and the changes to the bylaws were accepted.

Membership

Mr. Thomas Gluodenis joined the Advisory Board in March of 2024, but was unable to attend any full Board meetings prior to this one. Mr. Gluodenis is a Professor of Chemistry at Lincoln University, where he has taught for ten years. Prior to becoming a professor, Mr. Gluodenis worked in the industry for 27 years, including time as an Environmental Advisor for PerkinElmer.

Mr. James Connor will be stepping down from his position on the Board in preparation for his upcoming retirement.

The Board has not heard from Ms. Annette Guiseppi-Elie in a long time, and she will likely be removed from the Board.

Ms. Tina Serafini has not participated in a Board meeting in ten years. Mr. Campbell motioned to request Ms. Serafini's resignation, seconded by Mr. Bolstein. The motion passed, and Mr. Campbell will send a message to Ms. Serafini asking for her resignation, which she must respond to within 30 days. If she does not, the Board will request that the PA DEP Secretary remove her from the Board.

Land Recycling Program Staffing Update

No personnel changes. At Central Office, both sections are fully staffed.

Program Statistics and Updates

As of March 1, 2026, there have been 8,861 sites completed through the Act 2 program, and 1,933 are currently in progress. As of March 1, 2026, there have been 27 Notices of Intent to Remediate (NIR) submitted; the three-year mean is 236 NIRs per year.

Report approval rates for 2026, are slightly down; however, it is too early in the year to draw conclusions. The Land Recycling Program (LRP) is hosting a number of trainings in 2026, that are anticipated to help increase the approval rates.

Staff from EPA Region 3 and LRP participated in joint RCRA and TSCA trainings as part of the One Cleanup Program revision process. LRP also posted two new guidance handouts for the One Cleanup Program, one that highlights the major differences between the Act 2 and RCRA programs and one that covers the milestones for each program.

The NIR and Uniform Environmental Covenants Act (UECA) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been updated to clarify processes for DEP staff. SOPs are usually meant to be internal documents, but these SOPs are also hosted on the LRP website to provide transparency on the Act 2 report approval process. Mr. Bolstein asked whether the UECA SOP includes a suggested EC draft review timeline for DEP staff, as delays to the recording of an environmental covenant (EC) can delay real estate transactions. Mr. Mike Maddigan explained that the UECA draft review process is unique, and that the timeline for review depends upon the complexity of the site. There is no set timeline for review, but staff try to provide quick turnarounds and Central Office monitors ECs that have not been submitted, are overdue, or have been received but not yet signed.

Ms. Colleen Costello asked whether the Department has been noticing that the third-party collaboration portion of reports has been delaying approvals. Mr. Maddigan agreed to discuss the matter with her at a later date.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

The LRP has partnered with the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists (PCPG) to create an Act 2 webinar series made up of four two-hour webinars. The first webinar – an overview of Act 2 – was offered on March 10, 2026, and saw over 300 participants. The remaining three webinars will be held on a monthly basis and will discuss each cleanup standard, including the special industrial area (SIA) process. In-person technical training is tentatively scheduled for the end of the year and will cover risk assessments, vapor intrusion, case studies, etc.

After the PCPG Act 2 trainings have happened, LRP will offer a risk assessment training webinar. The webinar is nearly finished and will then need to go through the internal review process before a date for the training is set.

LRP is developing an Environmental Covenant (EC) training to improve EC submissions and reviews. They are also creating a new EC webpage that will include suggestions for how restrictions should be worded, standardized reporting requirements and timelines, etc.

LRP continues to partner with Mid-Atlantic Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) to offer funding webinars to potential EPA grant applicants. The webinars usually take place in the fall before the year's grant applications open.

LRP repackaged the Brownfields Basics training as a webinar followed by site tours for networking. The webinar was hosted in January, though no site tours were scheduled due to the timing of the Pennsylvania Brownfields Conference. The next full run of the webinar and site tours will take place in Winter 2026/Spring 2027.

The 2026 PA Brownfields Conference was a major success with nearly 370 attendees. Additionally, over 100 high school students attended the student programming portion of the conference, where they learned about the brownfield redevelopment process.

PFAS Action Team Update

Mr. Andrew Furman provided an update on the PFAS Action Team. The team is continuing to make progress on the subject of biosolids. They have held stakeholder meetings to discuss how permitting for biosolids might be handled. The next step is to present those ideas to the Agriculture Advisory Board. In the first week of April, the team will be meeting with New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection to discuss the recent PFAS legislation they have passed.

Mr. Bolstein asked whether the Department has seen remedial investigation reports (RIRs) that find PFAS contamination that was caused by biosolid application to nearby properties. Mr. Josh Neyhart explained that DEP has found only a few sites where biosolids have been a factor, but enough that they are taking notice. These sites have all experienced drinking water contamination; there have not yet been any Act 2 sites involving biosolids. Mr. Bolstein urged the Department to think strategically on how any decisions will impact costs for municipalities and their citizens, and Mr. Neyhart assured him that the team is looking at everything holistically. This includes looking to other states to study their approaches, especially Michigan. They have also consulted representatives from municipal water authorities, environmental groups, agriculture, etc. to discuss what the impact of biosolids regulation would be. The Action Team's initial plans will also be released for public comment, so they will be able to consider public input at that time as well.

Ms. Colleen Costello asked if the Action Team's holistic approach includes the changes to the NPDES Industrial Permit Application, which includes PFAS sampling, reporting, and source reduction plans. Mr. Neyhart confirmed that DEP plans to work with public water systems to implement Michigan's industrial pretreatment program, which requires industrial emitters to reduce their PFAS levels. This should result in public water systems finding their PFAS levels reducing to 100ppb or lower, which the Action Team is considering implementing as the baseline for spreadable biosolids.

Chapter 250 Updates

After internal deliberation, it was decided that the Department is able to update the Chapter 250 rulemaking with the recommendations received via the public comment period before the regulations are published as final.

Ms. Brie Sterling sent the Board copies of the current version of the rulemaking with all of the changes and additions highlighted:

- Section C3 was added to Section 304 of the annex to explain where to find the hazard index (HI) calculation and that it is part of the MCL
- Language was added to subsection 250.707.B2.iii to define the HI calculation equation and where to find the values to use.
- A cross reference to the new language in Section 707 was added to 250.704(e) to identify the minimum number of samples required

- A cross reference to the new language in 707 was added to 250.707(d) to explain that the HI calculation does not need to be included in the requirements of the other statistical methods.
- Values were updated in the tables.
- A footnote was added to Table 1 explaining which compounds to include in the HI calculation, the MSC basis for GenX, the HI indication to GenX, PFBS, and PFHx and PFNA, which are new to all of the Tables.
- The PFOA and PFOS values were updated to the published EPA MCL values.
- PFHx and PFNA were added to Table 3A, and PFOS and PFOA values were recalculated using the toxicity values from the published EPA MCLs.
- Added PFHx and PFNA to Table 3B and updated PFOS and PFOA to 100x groundwater. 100x groundwater is used for all PFAS compounds.
- Added PFHx and PFNA to Table 5A and updated the PFOS and PFOA toxicity values to those used in the EPA MCL publication.

Mr. Bolstein asked what will be done if the PFNA MCL is rescinded by the EPA. Ms. Sterling indicated that such a move is unprecedented. Mr. Maddigan explained that the Department must focus on the current laws because it is difficult to predict what EPA will do. If EPA does rescind or otherwise change their values, those numbers will have to be revisited in the next rulemaking. Ms. Costello suggested that language be added to the rulemaking to clarify that any changes made by the EPA immediately become effective for the Commonwealth, and Ms. Sterling explained that language already exists in Section 304 stating that Department values change to match any updates published as final in the *Federal Register*. Mr. Campbell suggested adding a footnote directing people to the Department website to ensure all numbers are up to date. Mr. Maddigan doubted that this could be added to the rulemaking but expressed that the Department already encourages stakeholders to access the Department website for the latest information.

Mr. Bolstein asked when the new lead standards would become effective, and Ms. Sterling explained that they become effective as soon as they are published as final in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*, potentially in late summer or early fall of 2026. Mr. Kris Shiffer reminded the Board that eNotices are sent out to subscribers when a rulemaking is published as final in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* and when it is taken to the Environmental Quality Board and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. He shared a link to the sign-up page for these eNotices: [eNOTICE by Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#)

PFAS Scientific Advisory Board Workgroup Update

Ms. Costello provided an update on the PFAS Scientific Advisory Board Workgroup. The Workgroup had its first meeting on December 19, 2025, and has met monthly since, with subgroups meeting more frequently. They have decided that their goal is to identify an equation or model that Act 2 can use to calculate a generic soil to groundwater MSC. Subgroups were formed to tackle different facets of this goal, including workgroup coordination, analyzing and summarizing the research done by other organizations, answering technical questions, investigating existing PFAS fate and transport models and equations, and investigating PFAS sources and background and site conceptual models. The workgroup's goal is to have a draft document prepared by October 2026 to be presented to the CSSAB at their October 21 meeting, and to have the final document prepared by the end of December of 2026.

The workgroup has identified leads on what the fate and transport approach may entail. The current understanding is that the approach will involve data collection beyond the usual scope of investigations.

Board Comments

Mr. Campbell mentioned that EPA has introduced new toxicity values for arsenic, which should result in lower Regional Screening Levels (RSLs). EPA has not updated the RSL table in over a year, but the new toxicity values are in IRIS. Mr. Campbell warned that using the new arsenic values in calculations results in MSCs and RSLs that are significantly lower than the background level of arsenic found in soil.

Mr. Bolstein informed the Board that Industrial Sites Reuse Program (ISRP) funding has run out for the current fiscal year. He expressed that the ISRP running out of funding this quickly has a detrimental effect on the Economic Development Agencies and Redevelopment Authorities that rely on ISR funding.

Mr. Neyhart reminded the Board that the HSCA fund will likely run out of money by the end of this budget cycle. Governor Shapiro included a one-time infusion of \$20 million in his proposed budget, and he urged the Board to encourage their legislators to pass this funding so that the program may remain solvent through the next fiscal year. He also encouraged the Board to speak with their legislators about identifying a long-term, sustainable funding source for HSCA so that the Department can continue to perform its work without having to prioritize which sites they work on. The Department has been running site tours with legislators and the media to demonstrate and emphasize what HSCA funding is doing to help communities and their economies.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next CSSAB meeting is scheduled for July 15th, 2026.

Closing

Mr. Campbell motioned to adjourn the meeting, with Ms. Costello seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1030.